

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
Dare and Hyde Counties, North Carolina**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 44 of 150
Location: Eastern North Carolina on the Pamlico-Albermarle peninsula, west of Nags Head
Congressional District: 3 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$6,077,717

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 10 | *156,125 | \$6,077,717 | \$ 39 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 7 | 705 | \$700,000 | \$ 993 |
| Remaining | <u>15</u> | <u>83,170</u> | <u>\$14,480,000</u> | \$ 174 |
| Totals | 32 | 240,000 | \$21,257,717 | \$ 89 |

*Includes 131,100 donated acres.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect a valuable river swamp forest ecosystem and its wildlife resources.

Project Cooperators: U. S. Geological Survey - Biological Research Division; Ducks Unlimited; The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; Trust for Public Land; Department of Defense - Air Force/Navy; U. S. Corps of Engineers; Weyerhaeuser; North Carolina Division of Coastal Management; State of North Carolina; National Estuarine Research Reserve; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Coastal Wildlife Research Society; Sierra Club; National Park Service; U. S. Forest Service, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the Foreman Tract. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the land owner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. This tract, situated, in the Mashoes neighborhood near the Croatan Sound, consists of brackish and freshwater marshland on organic soils. One small area contains pond pin and wax myrtle, but saw grass is represented in the understory. The marshland flora contain saw grass, cattail, needlerush, and bulrush.

We are constantly seeking opportunities to manage lands through conservation easements for continual protection of fish and wildlife habitat. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$3,000.

Baca Ranch

LAND ACQUISITION

Saguache and Alamosa Counties, Colorado

Acquisition Authority: *Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000*
LAPS Rank: Not Ranked
Location: San Luis Valley, Colorado, adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve
Congressional District: 3 **Region:** 6
Appropriations: \$0

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ 0 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | Undivided | 8,000 | 2,000,000 | 250 |
| Remaining | Unknown | <u>84,500</u> | <u>18,812,500</u> | 223 |
| Total | Unknown | 92,500 | \$20,812,500 | \$225 |

*According to a Secretary of Interior agreement with The Nature Conservancy for the purchase of the Baca Ranch from the Cabeza de Vaca Ranch, the purchase will be a % (undivided interest) of the entire acreage until 100% is acquired.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: Legislation to convert the Great Sand Dunes National Monument into a National Park and Preserve also authorizes acquisition of additional lands, including the Baca Ranch, as a National Wildlife Refuge. The approved refuge boundary includes 92,500 acres, of which 53,500 acres would be acquired from the Cabeza de Vaca Ranch.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; USDA Forest Service; National Park Service; State of Colorado; Rio Grande Water Conservation District; local community

Project Description: Up to 20,000 acres of primarily playa wetlands and wet meadow habitat are estimated to occur on private, state and federal lands between San Luis Lakes State Park and Moffat, Colorado along San Luis Creek and its drainages on the Baca Ranch and Luis Maria Baca No. 4 Land Grant. Most of these wetlands are identified as Conservation Sites by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The global biological diversity ranking for these wetlands is either "Significant" or "Very Significant". The San Luis Valley contains the largest and most important concentration of wetlands in Colorado. Wetlands on Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge have been identified as very productive for waterbird nesting. Valley wetlands provide habitat for myriad water birds, including the largest nesting colonies of snowy egrets, white-faced ibis and black-crowned night herons in the state, and provide critical migration habitat for the entire Rocky Mountain population of greater Sandhill cranes. The San Luis Valley is a focus area for the Inter-Mountain West Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

This project is ranked number one by the National Park Service and is a top priority of the Secretary. This acquisition is strongly supported by the local community, not only for the large amount of wetlands and wildlife habitat it will protect but because of the resulting protection of San Luis Valley groundwater from exportation to Colorado's front range. The Baca Ranch has been the site of two large proposals to export ground water from the San Luis Valley to metropolitan areas of eastern Colorado. Local water users, environmental organizations and government agencies have objected vigorously to both proposals that, if

successful, would have devastated the agricultural economy and dried thousands of acres of important wetlands and migratory bird habitat within the San Luis Valley. The governor of Colorado, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the Rio Grande Water Conservation District are supportive of the acquisition proposal. In addition, the CDOW is concerned with the lack of hunting access to the Baca Ranch if included in a National Park. Current estimates indicate approximately 2,500 elk reside on the Baca Ranch, exceeding herd objectives for the entire Game Management Unit. The CDOW supports inclusion of much of the Baca Ranch in the National Wildlife Refuge System, in part due to the potential for better elk management that this status would offer.

The total cost of the *Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000* is \$31,280,000, to be funded by the Department of Interior. Land purchased under the Act will be divided between the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$0.

LAND ACQUISITION

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Virginia Beach, Virginia

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No. 25 of 150
Location: City of Virginia Beach
Congressional District: 2 **Region:** 5
Total Appropriations: \$13,322,930

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>*Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001* | 61 | 8,683 | \$17,352,060 | \$1,998 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 3 | 210 | 3,902,370 | \$18,583 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 3 | 188 | 2,000,000 | \$10,638 |
| Remaining | <u>90</u> | <u>1,926</u> | <u>**9,745,570</u> | \$5,060 |
| Total | 157 | 11,007 | \$33,000,000 | \$ 2,998 |

*Includes incidental acquisitions costs, areas acquired with MBCA funds, and Title V (\$1,100,000).

**Cost adjusted to more accurately reflect current land prices.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To prevent further degradation of waterfowl habitat that is especially important to wintering black duck.

Project Cooperators: Friends of Back Bay; City of Virginia Beach; The Nature Conservancy, and Trust for Public Land.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire three tracts of land totaling 188 acres. Of this total, the Service is currently working with a conservation partner to acquire 62 acres of farmland designated for development as "farmettes." The remaining acres consist of previously converted farmland, scrub marsh, and woodland. Two tracts border canals flowing into the Back Bay. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

Back Bay NWR was originally established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. The area consists of a mixture of fresh to brackish marsh, wooded swamp, forests, and low lying marginal farmland. Located along the Atlantic flyway, the refuge is an important stopover area for a variety of shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds, including neotropical migrants. Federally threatened loggerhead sea turtles nest on the refuge beach. Many locally or globally rare plant species are found within the acquisition area. Acquisition of these tracts would reduce the possibility of development within the refuge boundary, protect the biological integrity of the southern and central portions of the refuge, and assist efforts to restore the water quality of the Back Bay watershed.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

Estimated start up costs would be \$5,000 for posting the property, and annual O & M costs would be \$1,000.

**Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Burnet, Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No.52 of 150
Location: Approximately 22 miles northwest of Austin
Congressional District: 21 **Region:** 2
Total Appropriations: \$25,612,120

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost**</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001* | 49 | 18,890 | \$28,987,707 | \$1,535 |
| Planned FY 2002*** | 1 | 98 | 429,413 | 4,382 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 735 | 1,500,000 | 2,041 |
| Remaining | <u>248</u> | <u>60,277</u> | <u>90,578,413</u> | 1,503 |
| Total | 300 | 80,000 | \$121,495,533 | \$1,519 |

* Includes Title I, V, VI and VIII; **Includes incidental acquisition costs; ***Includes carryover and emergency funds.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide protection of essential breeding habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, protect habitats for several species of endemic endangered cave invertebrates and preserve the natural biological diversity of the region.

Project Cooperators: The Trust for Public Land; The Nature Conservancy; The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Resource Conservation Service; State of Texas; and, local community

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two key tracts totaling about 735 acres. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. The tracts contain prime habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. These tracts are a high priority because of their habitat value and potential to reduce habitat fragmentation and help connect previously acquired tracts to create larger contiguous habitat blocks critical for optimum refuge management.

There is strong local project support with various landowners and groups in some communities. Three public use areas have generated positive support and public enthusiasm for the refuge. In the refuge Land Protection Plan the Service identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish the habitat protection goals of the refuge. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges that the Land Protection Plan has identified easements as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O&M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,500.

**Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
Coos County, Oregon**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Endangered Species Act of 1973*
LAPS Rank: No. 59 of 150
Location: Adjacent to Bandon on the south Oregon coast
Congressional District: 4 **Region:** 1
Total Appropriations: \$1,612,340

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownership</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 5 | 717 | 1,443,000 | 2,013 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 3 | 78 | 169,340 | 2,171 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 67 | 140,000 | 2,090 |
| Remaining | <u>3</u> | <u>141</u> | <u>423,000</u> | 3,000 |
| Total | 13 | 1,003 | \$2,175,340 | \$2,169 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect and restore anadromous fish and coastal wetlands, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds, and protect endangered and threatened species.

Project Cooperators: Archaeological Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two ownerships of 67 acres. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The Bandon Marsh NWR contains some of the best and last remaining examples of estuary and freshwater wetlands, tidal marshes, and upland and Coquille River habitat areas. These areas support a diverse array of wildlife. Development pressures have increased exponentially recently along coastal Oregon due to home building and tourism. Remaining wetland habitats are threatened by commercial and residential encroachment and associated impacts such as increased pollution and degraded water quality. The Oregon coast is the main tourist destination in the state. The refuge has the overall support of the majority of local landowners, special interest groups, local governmental agencies and congressional delegations.

Easement acquisition is a viable and available alternative to fee acquisition and has been used for some of the acquisitions within the Refuge Complex in the past. All willing sellers have requested fee acquisition, though we continue to offer other alternatives. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

We anticipate that short and long term management costs would relate to the restoration of original saltwater and tidal wetland systems and initially be minimal until a sufficient land base can be acquired for larger area restoration. The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$10,000.

**Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge
Orleans Parish, Louisiana**

Acquisition Authority: *Bayou Sauvage Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No. 12 of 150
Location: Adjacent to the City of New Orleans
Congressional District: 1 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$8,000,000

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 5 | 22,263 | \$ 10,941,000 | \$ 491 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 6 | 2,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 250 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 356 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 702 |
| Remaining | <u>13</u> | <u>1,877</u> | <u>\$ 1,411,000</u> | <u>\$ 752</u> |
| Totals | 25 | 26,496 | \$ 13,102,000 | \$ 494 |

*Includes Title V and NAWCA funds

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect coastal marsh and forested wetland ecosystems along the south shore of Lake Ponchartrain and north shore of Lake Borgne within the authorized refuge boundary.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; State of Louisiana; and local congressional delegation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the 356-acre Big Oak Island wetland tract within the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The Big Oak Island tract, in the neighborhood of Jazzland Amusement Park, is significant not only for its wildlife habitat but also its archeological significance in understanding the prehistory of the region. Big Oak Island has been recognized for its historical significance and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Fee purchase is the only option agreeable to the owner. The refuge is fully staffed and equipped to handle the management of this additional land.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$5,000.

**Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No. 12 of 150
Location: Near the City of Slidell
Congressional District: 1 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 22 | *15,546 | **\$8,476,174 | \$ 545 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 640 | \$250,000 | \$ 391 |
| Remaining | <u>14</u> | <u>6,105</u> | <u>\$3,398,720</u> | \$ 557 |
| Totals | 37 | 22,291 | \$12,124,894 | \$ 544 |

*Includes 11,586 donated acres

**Includes Title V funds

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect coastal marsh and forested wetland ecosystems along the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain within the authorized refuge boundary. These areas are threatened by dredge and fill development for residential and commercial purposes. A prime example is the Oak Harbor development on the lake shore southeast of Slidell, a massive dredge and fill development approximately 2,000 acres in size.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; State of Louisiana, and the congressional delegation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the 640-acre Fritchie Marsh tract within the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. Fee purchase is the only option agreeable to the owner. The refuge is fully staffed and equipped to handle the management of this additional land.

Since the origin of this refuge, there has been strong public involvement with the project. Friends of the refuge groups have organized and volunteer to lend a hand or support special outreach programs. The local congressional delegation is supportive of this project and has been pro-active in seeking funding.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$10,000.

**Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Nineteen Counties, Missouri**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 7 of 150
Location: Various sites along the Missouri River between Kansas City and St. Louis
Congressional Districts: 1,2,3,4,6,9 **Region:** 3
Total Appropriations : \$2,000,000

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 33 | 8,147 | *\$1,750,000 | \$ 215 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 7 | 1,620 | 2,250,000 | 1,389 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 1,240 | 2,000,000 | 1,613 |
| Remaining | <u>90</u> | <u>29,583</u> | <u>40,000,000</u> | 1,352 |
| Total | 131 | 40,590 | \$46,000,000 | \$ 1,133 |

*Does not include Emergency Flood Supplemental Funding.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect and restore natural river flood plain, manage fish and wildlife habitats, and provide for compatible public use.

Project Cooperators: Army Corps of Engineers; Missouri Department of Conservation; Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Audubon Society; American Rivers; The River Network; Ducks Unlimited; The Friends of Big Muddy, and The Great Rivers Land Trust.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the 130-acre Carter tract and a portion of the 3,000-acre Atherton Bend tract along the lower Missouri River. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

These riverine and flood plain habitats include sheltered backwaters, sloughs and chutes, oxbow lakes, sandbars, gravel bars, mud flats, deep pools, shallow water areas, marshes and seasonally flooded bottomland forests. More than 90 percent of the original flood plain forests, wetlands and prairies have been converted to agricultural lands. Funding has been received in the past to acquire flood ravaged lands in fee and/or easement from willing sellers in an effort to reduce future occurrence of catastrophic flood events.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$50,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge Washington County, Nebraska

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956
LAPS Rank: No. 91 of 150
Location: Adjacent to the Missouri River, five miles east of Ft. Calhoun
Congressional District: 3 **Region:** 6
Total Appropriations: \$3,887,500

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 17 | 3,259 | \$ 3,450,786 | \$1,059 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 6 | 218 | 436,714 | 2,003 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 60 | 130,000 | 2,167 |
| Remaining | <u>41</u> | <u>6,375</u> | <u>14,590,080</u> | 2,289 |
| Total | 65 | 9,912 | \$18,607,580 | \$1,877 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River and in its flood plain and provide for increased public recreation opportunities along the river corridor through a coordinated effort with the multi-agency "Back to the River" Project.

Project Cooperators: U. S. Geological Survey; Ducks Unlimited; The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; Trust for Public Land; U. S. Corps of Engineers; Weyerhaeuser; National Estuarine Research Reserve; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Sierra Club; National Park Service; U. S. Forest Service, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire approximately 60 acres. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The primary project objectives are restoring habitat for pallid sturgeons, paddlefish, least terns, piping plovers, bald eagles, and increasing overall Missouri River biodiversity. A major component provides for wildlife-dependent public uses. The "Back to the River" Project is a partnership to restore natural areas and build a 60-mile trail along the river, protecting this urban, multiple-use river where it flows through Omaha and Council Bluffs.

Most lands acquired through this project would require restoration. Much of the land would be acquired in fee-title to facilitate the restoration process, though some lands may be protected by conservation easements. NRCS acquires easements through the Wetland Reserve Program and the Service acquires the residual fee interest as a partnership. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$10,240.

**Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Pima County, Arizona**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 33 of 150
Location: Approximately 50 miles south of Tucson
Congressional District: 2 **Region:** 2
Total Appropriations: \$19,380,900

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>*Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 16 | 117,776 | \$18,736,374 | \$159 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 4 | 360 | 644,526 | 1,790 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 1,100 | 750,000 | 682 |
| Remaining | <u>32</u> | <u>746</u> | <u>1,500,000</u> | 2,011 |
| Total | 53 | 119,982 | \$21,630,900 | \$180 |

*Includes incidental acquisition costs.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: Habitat protection for the masked bobwhite, the high biological diversity inherent to the southern portion of the Altar Valley and important riparian habitat along Arivaca Creek.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Arizona Department of Game and Fish.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a key 1,100-acre tract at the Arivaca Creek Unit. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The tract is dominated by cottonwood/willow riparian habitat, which has experienced significant decline throughout the southwest. Home site development is the major impact to the area.. Other adverse conditions occurring in the area include overgrazing, illegal harvest for firewood of riparian zone trees, damage by uncontrolled off-road vehicles and diversion of surface and groundwater.

Acquisition of conservation easements is proposed for this tract. This would provide the level of protection necessary for long-term maintenance of the area's biological resources, and is the preferred method of protection by the landowners. A combination of fee and less-than-fee acquisition is being considered for other lands at the Unit. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

Estimated start up and O&M costs would be minimal since conservation easements are for the purpose of non-development. Likely management activities would be restoration of riparian habitat, and could be cost-shared with the current landowners. Annual O&M costs associated with this acquisition would be \$1,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge Prairie, Woodruff, Jackson and Monroe Counties, Arkansas

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, Migratory Bird Conservation Act*
LAPS Rank: No. 2 of 150
Location: 60 miles east-northeast of Little Rock
Congressional District: 1 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$4,166,577

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 135 | 56,030 | *\$ 35,781,994 | \$ 639 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 1,121 | 2,000,000 | 1,784 |
| Remaining | <u>334</u> | <u>96,746</u> | <u>254,622,306</u> | 2,632 |
| Totals | 470 | 153,897 | 292,404,300 | \$1,900 |

*Includes MBCF funds and the donation of 787 acres

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect wintering areas vital to the long-term conservation of migratory waterfowl.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; State of Arkansas; Arkansas State Heritage Commission; Arkansas Wildlife Federation; Audubon Society; East Arkansas Wildlife Association, and the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire tracts within the 4,300-acre Morrison property (formerly McCaughan), which encompasses more riparian habitat along the Cache River than any other privately owned property within the project area. The acquisition would provide public use benefits and a significant boost to the local economy. The project has been supported by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in that the acquisition would complement its nearby Black Swamp Wildlife Management Area. The Morrison property would require approximately \$8,000,000 to complete acquisition. This budget request would satisfy about 25% of the total need.

Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource. The refuge currently has willing sellers approaching the \$20,000,000 level. Previously, fee title transfer has been the primary means of acquisition. However, in the future, conservation easements will be acquired whenever possible. This project currently has an opportunity to acquire over seven miles of riparian habitat in one ownership along the Cache River should funding become available for this purpose.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$5,000.

**Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
Various Counties in Montana**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 22 of 150
Location: Adjacent to the Missouri River in Northeastern Montana
Congressional District: At Large **Region:** 6
Total Appropriation: \$536,000

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost**</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001* | Multi | 7,756 | \$1,517,380 | \$ 196 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 1 | 2,760 | 929,400 | 337 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | Multi | 3,000 | 1,000,000 | 333 |
| Remaining | <u>Multi</u> | <u>364,557</u> | <u>108,351,000</u> | 297 |
| Total | Multi | 378,073 | \$111,797,780 | \$ 296 |

* Includes other than LWCF funds **Includes Title V transfer money of \$288,000

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: For the protection, long term restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and historical and cultural resources. The refuge provides habitat and release sites for the endangered black-footed ferret.

Project Cooperators: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department (MFWPD).

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a 3,000-acre tract from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (the Foundation). The Ft. Peck Game Range (now Charles M. Russell NWR) was established in 1936. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was assigned the livestock management role and the Service was assigned the wildlife management role; however, wildlife management became a secondary objective. In 1976, Congress transferred grazing and sole jurisdiction to the Service with wildlife management the primary objective. The current refuge boundary includes a mix of private land, land acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) as part of the Ft. Peck project, state land, BLM land, and Service-acquired land. Numerous private inholdings are for sale. The Corps has leased recreational cabin sites to private parties on refuge lands. The Water Resource Development Act of 2000 requires sale of these sites, with the receipts to be used for acquisition of replacement land for the refuge.

No conservation easements will be acquired within the existing boundary. The tract must be acquired in fee as stated in the existing purchase agreement between the Service and the Foundation. Recently the state worked with the Service to acquire a 15,000-acre conservation easement adjacent to the refuge.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$6,500.

LAND ACQUISITION

Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge Lauderdale County, Tennessee

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, Migratory Bird Conservation Act*
LAPS Rank: No. 20 of 150
Location: Ten miles west of Ripley, and 60 miles north of Memphis
Congressional District: 8 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations : \$2,484,546

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownership</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 17 | 18,052 | \$ 18,404,310 | \$1,020 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 3 | 226 | 500,000 | 2,212 |
| Remaining | <u>297</u> | <u>47,517</u> | <u>86,620,050</u> | <u>1,823</u> |
| Totals | 317 | 65,795 | \$105,524,360 | \$1,604 |

*Includes MBCA funds

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect habitat for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds in the West Tennessee Focus Area, a partnership to preserve resources in Tennessee.

Project Cooperators: The Trust for Public Land; Nature Conservancy; State of Tennessee; John Tanner; The Conservation Fund; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Ducks Unlimited; Tennessee Conservation League; Anderson-Tully Corporation; U. S. Corps of Engineers; Audubon Society; Tennessee Ornithological Society; Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment.

Project Description: Funds would be used to support several different acquisitions: The Steelman tract is a 200-acre inholding on the north side of the refuge. The refuge surrounds the tract on two sides. A second tract next to the Mississippi River currently has 175 acres of agricultural fields and 25 acres of forest. Initial restoration costs for reforesting this tract would be \$35,000. Finally, the H.D. Morris tract is a 133-acre inholding on the southeast side of the Chickasaw NWR. The refuge borders the tract on two sides. The area is currently 62 acres of forest and 71 acres of agricultural land. The initial restoration cost for reforesting this tract would be \$13,000. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$5,000.

**Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Morrison County, Minnesota**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No.142 of 150
Location: Morrison County, 5 miles southeast of Little Falls
Congressional District: 8 **Region:** 3
Total Appropriations: \$936,050

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownership</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 14 | 1,688 | 1,155,965 | 685 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 5 | 250 | 250,000 | 1,000 |
| Remaining | <u>91</u> | <u>12,462</u> | <u>8,594,035</u> | 690 |
| Total | 110 | 14,400 | \$10,000,000 | \$694 |

*Includes funds from the sale of Building 201 from the U.S. Bureau of Mines Closure Team to the City of Minneapolis Park Board

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore and manage a nationally significant wetland complex for plant and animal species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; Pheasants Forever; Randall Sportsman Club; Little Falls Sportsman Club; Royalton Sportsman Club; Morrison County; Ducks Unlimited; and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the 88-acre Hopwood tract. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

This tract is part of a major wetland complex and contains important production and migration habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds dependent on wetlands. The area features two shallow lacustrine wetlands, Rice and Skunk Lakes, at the confluence of the Platte River, Skunk River, Rice Creek, and Buckman Creek. Spring runoff frequently inundates an extensive part of this area. Habitat types include open water, wet meadows, hardwood forests, and large areas of sedges and grasses mixed with shrubs. Upland areas, most of which are used for agriculture, project into and surround this large wetland complex. In most years, the lakes within the study area produce a substantial wild rice crop. The area attracts large numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl and supports breeding populations of a number of bird species uncommon in central Minnesota such as greater sandhill cranes, Le Conte's sparrows, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$10,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, and Union Counties, Illinois

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No.37 of 150
Location: City of Cairo, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers
Congressional Districts: 12,19 **Region:** 3
Total Appropriations: \$ 14,814,300

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 104 | 14,078 | \$13,529,918 | \$ 961 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 7 | 1,284 | 1,284,382 | 1,000 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 230 | 250,000 | 1,000 |
| Remaining | <u>132</u> | <u>19,708</u> | <u>24,935,700</u> | 1,265 |
| Total | 245 | 35,320 | \$40,000,000 | \$1,133 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; State of Illinois, and Corps of Engineers.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two tracts, the 114-acre Robertson tract and the 116-acre Jordan tract. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

These tracts of naturally flooded bottomland hardwoods provide resting, nesting, and feeding habitat for ducks, geese, neotropical migrants and a variety of other migratory birds and resident wildlife. The refuge is strategically located in the heart of the famous waterfowl migration and wintering area of southern Illinois and the Mississippi Flyway. The Service's acquisition complements the work of the partners via a cooperative effort to preserve this unique riverine ecosystem. The State of Illinois and The Nature Conservancy are partners through two adjacent large ecological preserves: Cache River State Area and Limekiln Slough Preserve.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$10,000.

**Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA
North Dakota/South Dakota**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 11 of 150
Location: The Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem in southeast North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota
Congressional Districts: ND-At large SD-At large **Region:** 6
Total Appropriations: \$4,595,000

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres*</u> | <u>Cost**</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 12 | 2,006 | \$ 627,087 | \$ 313 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 88 | 14,060 | \$ 4,217,913 | 300 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 31 | 5,000 | 1,000,000 | 200 |
| Remaining | <u>909</u> | <u>149,734</u> | <u>9,185,000</u> | <u>61</u> |
| Total | 1,040 | 170,800 | \$15,030,000 | \$ 88 |

*Acquisition consists almost exclusively of conservation easements.

** Includes FY1999 Title V money of \$250,000.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, local community, and congressional delegation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire privately owned tracts of native tallgrass prairie connected in 10,000-20,000-acre blocks. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowners, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The Dakota tallgrass prairie supports a rich diversity of plant and animal species including 3,000 plant species, 113 species of butterflies, 35 species of reptiles and amphibians, 60 species of mammals and 260 species of birds. This project protects habitat for at least 237 rare species and 59 species considered threatened or endangered at the state level.

Through the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers, this project will preserve 170,800 acres of tallgrass prairie in the Dakotas. The project seeks to protect 5,000 acres of remaining native prairie in northeastern Brown County, South Dakota and an additional 165,500 acres identified in eastern South Dakota and southeast North Dakota. Limited fee title transfer and restoration activity may also be conducted.

The estimated O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,500.

LAND ACQUISITION

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Atlantic, Burlington, and Ocean Counties, New Jersey

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No. 27 of 150
Location: 10 miles north of Atlantic City
Congressional Districts: 2,3,4 **Region:** 5
Total Appropriations: \$29,875,720

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquisition Status: | | | | |
| Acquired through FY 2001* | 319 | 44,857 | \$ 41,820,923 | \$932 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 1 | 468 | 2,504,982 | \$5,353 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 5 | 140 | 2,250,000 | \$16,071 |
| Remaining | <u>1,041</u> | <u>13,597</u> | <u>16,924,095</u> | \$1,245 |
| Total | 1,366 | 59,062 | \$63,500,000 | \$ 1,075 |

*Includes incidental acquisition costs and areas acquired with the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, Title V, and Title VI funds.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect habitat important to Atlantic brant and other waterfowl and waterbirds, especially black ducks and rails, and protect habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Project Cooperators: State of New Jersey - Green Acres Program; Ocean County, New Jersey; Representative Frank LoBiondo, and Representative Jim Saxton.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire three high-priority tracts totaling 140 acres. The Service currently holds four options on over 275 acres valued in excess of \$3,120,000.00. Edwin B. Forsythe NWR extends along 40 miles of the New Jersey coast and consists of estuarine marsh and brackish and fresh water wetlands. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The refuge was established to protect habitat for Atlantic brant, black ducks and rails, as approximately 35% of the entire Atlantic Flyway population of American black duck and 70% of the Flyway's Atlantic brant population winter here. The refuge includes the state's most productive areas for piping plovers, American woodcock, and the state-endangered osprey, woodcock, black skimmer and least tern. The Barnegat Bay area provides essential migratory habitat for waterfowl and passerine bird species, as well as federal and state endangered and threatened species such as the pied-billed grebe, northern harrier, peregrine falcon, Cooper's hawk, osprey and least tern. Barnegat Bay is designated as a National Estuary Program Area, and both Great Bay and Little Egg Harbor Bay are designated a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

Estimated start up costs would be \$5,000 for posting the property. The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,200.

**Great River National Wildlife Refuge
Nine Counties, Missouri**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: No.3 of 150
Location: 60 miles north of St. Louis
Congressional Districts: 9(Missouri); 20(Illinois) **Region:** 3
Total Appropriations : \$1,000,000

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 15 | 9,219 | \$1,000,000 | \$ 108 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 1,848 | 2,000,000 | 1,082 |
| Remaining | <u>10</u> | <u>2,035</u> | <u>3,000,000</u> | 1,474 |
| Total | 26 | 13,102 | \$6,000,000 | \$ 458 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Project Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; The Conservation Fund; Missouri Department of Conservation; USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Ducks Unlimited.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire up to 1,848 acres of the Pike Grain tract, which provides resting and feeding critical wintering and mid-migration habitat for thousands of migratory birds, including canvasback ducks and wintering bald eagles. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

Acquisition of this tract is the number one priority of the refuge. The tract contains both diked and undiked farmland. The current owner wishes to convey the property in fee. No land exchange alternatives exist. There is growing local support for the project.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$25,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Lee and Charlotte Counties, Florida

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Endangered Species Act of 1973*
LAPS Rank: No. 8 of 150
Location: Sanibel Island and surrounding lands in the Gulf of Mexico, 25 miles southwest of Ft. Myers
Congressional District: 14 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$ 5,183,079

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 195 | 6,350 | \$4,818,381* | \$759 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 1 | 3 | \$1,000,000 | \$333,333 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 70 | \$3,000,000 | \$42,857 |
| Remaining | <u>22</u> | <u>902</u> | <u>\$22,560,000</u> | \$25,011 |
| Totals | 220 | 7,325 | \$31,378,381 | \$4,284 |

*Includes Title V funds

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect and preserve a portion of Sanibel Island's unique subtropical vegetative complex for shore birds, wading birds, migrating waterfowl, and endangered species, as well as other important habitat in the surrounding vicinity.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; Trust for Public Land; Ding Darling Society; Lee County Board of Commissioners; Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Representative Porter Goss.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire the following: approximately \$2.0 million for Buck Key, which consists of approximately 10 acres; \$500,000 for the Allied Electric tracts which consists of approximately 40 acres; and \$500,000 to acquire house lots from the City of Sanibel that are adjacent to the Bailey tract. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The refuge provides habitat for approximately 291 species of birds, more than 50 types of reptiles and amphibians and at least 32 different mammals. Threatened and endangered species include the southern bald eagle, West Indian manatee, peregrine falcon, indigo snake and gopher tortoise. Several tracts within the acquisition boundary remain in private ownership and may eventually be developed if not acquired.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$3,500.

**Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Cameron and Willacy Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 16 of 150
Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Brownsville and 13 miles east of Harlingen
Congressional District: 27 **Region:** 2
Total Appropriations : \$0

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownership</u> | <u>*Acres</u> | <u>Cost**</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 20 | 65,097 | \$ 6,206,916 | \$ 95 |
| Planned FY 2002*** | 2 | 21,384 | 6,923,930 | 324 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 5 | 2,857 | 1,500,000 | 525 |
| Remaining | <u>291</u> | <u>63,976</u> | <u>63,888,000</u> | 999 |
| Total | 318 | 153,314 | \$78,518,846 | \$ 512 |

*Includes a DOD transfer of 8,486 acres, a 113-acre conservation easement donation, transfer of 7,271 acres in two parcels from Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, and lands acquired with MBCA funds.

**Includes lands acquired with incidental acquisition costs.

***Includes lands to be acquired with both LWCF and MBCA monies.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect migratory waterfowl wintering areas, natural biodiversity values and endangered species habitat for ocelots, peregrine falcons, aplomado falcons, sea turtles, piping plovers and other wildlife and fish species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire tracts from up to seven owners who own land totaling 2,344 acres in the project area. The Service also has a contract from one landowner to acquire 23,282 acres within the project boundary for a price of \$6.98 million, which is expected to be acquired prior to FY 2003. However, FY 2003 LWCF funds may be required to complete the acquisition. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$5,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges Lauderdale and Tipton Counties, Tennessee

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Acquisition Authority: | <i>Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986</i> |
| LAPS Rank: | No. 20 of 150 |
| Location: | Lower Mississippi Valley Ecosystem, rural west Tennessee approximately 50 miles north of Memphis and 18 miles west of Henning |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---|
| Congressional District: | 8 | Region: | 4 |
| Total Appropriations: | \$265,431 | | |

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 17 | 8,804 | \$ 11,067,626 | \$ 1,257 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 297 | 500,000 | 1,684 |
| Remaining | <u>159</u> | <u>13,416</u> | <u>25,852,632</u> | <u>1,927</u> |
| Totals | 178 | 22,517 | \$37,420,258 | \$ 1,662 |

*Includes MBCA & Title V funds

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect habitat for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; State of Tennessee; John Tanner; The Conservation Fund; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Ducks Unlimited; Tennessee Conservation League; Anderson-Tully Corporation; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Audubon Society; Tennessee Ornithological Society; Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire tracts within the project boundary of the approximately 22,517 acre Lower Hatchie NWR. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The project area consists of bottomland hardwoods, agricultural lands, and open water habitat. The hardwood-dominated bottomlands provide breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for several species of migratory birds. Principal waterfowl species include mallards, gadwalls, pintails, green-winged teals, American wigeons, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, and hooded mergansers. Endangered and threatened species such as the bald eagle and interior least tern are sighted regularly in the project area. Other federally listed species including the gray bat and arctic falcon are often observed in this geographic area. The Tennessee-listed endangered river otter and Mississippi kite are both present as well.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,000.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo and Starr Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and Refuge Recreation Act of 1962*
LAPS Rank: No. 19 of 150
Location: Portions of this basically linear refuge lie within six to 10 miles south of the cities of Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, and Rio Grande City
Congressional Districts: 20,27 **Region:** 2
Total Appropriations: \$87,155,720

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownership</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost*</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001** | 312 | 82,524 | 84,895,247 | \$1,028 |
| Planned FY 2002*** | 18 | 3,080 | 2,401,473 | 780 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 5 | 833 | 1,000,000 | 1,200 |
| Remaining | <u>792</u> | <u>46,063</u> | <u>46,162,000</u> | 1,002 |
| Total | 1,127 | 132,500 | \$134,458,720 | \$1,015 |

*Includes incidental acquisition costs.

**Includes donations, gifts, fee and easement acquisitions, and management agreements.

***Includes lands to be purchased with LWCF carryover funds as well as donations and gifts.

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the diverse biotic communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The protected corridor runs from Falcon Dam to the mouth of the Rio Grande and north to the Laguna Atascosa NWR including wetlands, barrier islands, and endangered species habitat.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy; The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Environmental Synergy, Inc.; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; County Commissioners; Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire tracts from up to 15 willing sellers who own an estimated 2,600 acres within the acquisition boundaries of the refuge. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. The Service has used conservation easements, management agreements and gifts, and fee acquisition to accomplish the objectives of the refuge.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Dixie and Levy Counties, Florida

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: No. 15 of 150
Location: Florida Gulf Coast, 50 miles southwest of Gainesville
Congressional Districts: 2,5 **Region:** 4
Total Appropriations: \$ 15,214,500

Acquisition Status:

| | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>\$/Acre</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Acquired Through FY 2001 | 13 | 51,516 | \$ 15,214,500 | \$ 295 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 1 | 3,030 | 1,500,000 | 495 |
| Remaining | <u>165</u> | <u>13,561</u> | <u>35,226,200</u> | 2,598 |
| Totals | 179 | 68,107 | \$51,940,700 | \$ 763 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect nationally significant wildlife habitat that is one of the largest undeveloped river delta-estuarine complexes in the United States.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; Representative Karen Thurman; USDA Forest Service; Dixie County Historical Society; Suwannee River Chamber of Commerce; State of Florida; the Suwannee River Water Management District; Friends and Volunteers of the Refuge (friends group); Dixie and Levy Counties; local residents.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire tracts from willing sellers, including a 178-acre tract fronting the Suwannee River, Clark Island, Deer Island, and several other inholdings. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs. Most notably, the refuge provides essential nursery and feeding habitat for the Crystal River population of the West Indian manatee, and supports the last viable population of gulf sturgeon.

We are currently managing several properties for the State of Florida and opportunities exist to continue this practice in the future when available. The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$5,000.

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, and Scott Counties, Minnesota**

Acquisition Authority: *Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act*, as amended
LAPS Rank: No. 112 of 150
Location: 40 miles of the Minnesota River from Minneapolis upstream to Jordan.
Congressional Districts: 1,2,3 **Region:** 3
Total Appropriations: \$25,025,823

| Acquisition Status: | <u>Ownerships</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Acquired through FY 2001 | 101 | 10,683 | \$24,910,823 | \$ 2,332 |
| Planned FY 2002 | 2 | 7 | 115,000 | 16,429 |
| Proposed FY 2003 | 2 | 125 | 500,000 | 4,000 |
| Remaining | <u>39</u> | <u>8,332</u> | <u>25,213,112</u> | 3,026 |
| Total | 144 | 19,147 | \$50,738,935 | \$2,650 |

Total cost per acre is an average of total costs divided by total acres for the estimated life of the project.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, improve refuge boundary administration and provide for recreational opportunities in accordance with special authorizing legislation.

Project Cooperators: The Minnesota Waterfowl Association; Pheasants Forever; The Nature Conservancy; The Conservation Fund; and The Trust for Public Land.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two small tracts within the original acquisition boundary of the urban Minnesota Valley NWR. These tracts are ineligible for funding from the Metropolitan Airports mitigation fund. No land exchange alternatives exist. Actual acquisition acreage and costs will not be available until purchase agreements have been secured from the landowner, therefore project descriptions are preliminary general estimates of acres and costs.

The adjacent Fort Snelling State Park includes a recreation area and trail system. This section of the Minnesota River is a vast greenbelt that includes tallgrass prairie, deciduous upland forests, floodplain forests, oak savannas, and eight classes of wetlands. More than 250 species of birds use the area during migration, and 100-150 of these species nest in the Minnesota Valley. Bald eagles use the area for nesting and feeding each spring and fall. Every year, 30,000-40,000 waterfowl congregate in the valley prior to fall migration. This avian diversity is complemented by approximately 50 species of mammals and 30 species of reptiles and amphibians. Due to the proximity of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area (three million people reside within 15 miles of the refuge), wildlife-oriented recreation, education, and related activities are emphasized as major refuge objectives.

The Service's land protection plan for the refuge identifies the minimum interest necessary to accomplish habitat protection goals. The Service has the potential and ability to acquire easements on all refuges identified by the plan as the minimum interest necessary to protect the resource.

The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$2,500.